Basal Ban

*52. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Basal Ban is under attack from Indian waste re-cycling industries;

(b) if so, the grounds therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken all necessary measures to give effect to this ban; and

(d) if yes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Representations have been received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests from the Indian waste re-cycling industries, especially zinc, lead and oil waste. Zinc waste recyclers have argued that zinc ash and skimmings since listed in List-B [wastes not to be regulated under Article I (1) (a) of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (the Convention)] be placed under Open General Licence (OGL) by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. According to the Waste oil re-refiners, lubricating oil should be excluded from the category of "waste mineral oils" classified as hazardous.

(c) and (d) India signed the Convention on March 15, 1990 and ratified it on June 24, 1992. In the third meeting of the Conference of Parties held in 1995, the following decisions were taken:

(1) Each party listed in Annex VII (Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development, European Commission and Liechtenstein) of the Convention shall prohibit all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes which are destined for operations according to Annex IV A (operations which do not lead to the possibility of resource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses) to States not listed in Annex VII.

(2) Each Party listed in Annex VII of the Convention shall phase out by 31st December, 1997, and prohibit as of that date, all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes under Article 1 (1) (a) of the Convention (waste considered as hazardous under the Convention) which are destined for operations according to Annex IV B (operations which may lead to resource recovery, recycling, clamation, direct reuse or alternative uses) to States not listed in Annex VII. Such transboundary movement shall not be prohibited unless the wastes in question are characterized as hazardous under the Convention.

The Fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-IV) to the Basel Convention will be held in February 1998. This Conference will adopt a list of wastes that would be covered by Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention and this will come into force after the COP-IV takes a decision in this matter.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has taken steps to ban imports of: [1] Cyanide waste, Mercury and Arsenic bearing wastes; and [2] import of wastes containing as constituents, or wastes bearing as contaminants, Beryllium, Selenium, Chromium (Hexavalent), Thallium and wastes containing pesticides, herbicides and insecticides and their intermediates/residues thereof including out-dated pesticides. Further action in this direction would be based on decision taken in COP-IV.

Establishment of Mahila Shikshan Kendras

*53. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established Mahila Shikshan Kendras (MSKs) for illiterate women who have never joined the formal school system in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the total number of women benefited from such MSKs in the State during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the MSKs in the State to spread literacy amongst the illiterate women of the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) Two Mahila Shikshan Kendras (MSK) called Balika Shikshan Kendra (BSK) have been set up at Khedbrahma in Sabarkanta district in 1996 and Morbi in Rajkot district in July 1997 respectively by the Mahila Samakhya programme in Gujarat. 38 girls benefited from the BSK during 1996-97 and 101 girls are presently undergoing the course during the current year in the two BSKs.

(d) to (e) Preparatory action to the opening of Mahila Shikshan Kendras in Jasdan block of Rajkot district, Kayavarohan in Baroda district and Deosa in Banaskantha district is in progress.

आगरा फोर्ट रेल लाइन का आमान परिवर्तन

*54. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वर्ष 1996-97 के बजट में बांदी कुई-आगरा फोर्ट रेल लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का कार्य आरम्भ करने का कोई उल्लेख है;

(ख) "बोल्ट" के अंतर्गत उद्धत दरें और विभिन्न पार्टियों द्वारा उद्धत दरें क्या-क्या थीं;

(ग) रेलवे द्वारा कार्य को कब तक पूरा कर दिए जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) रेलवे को अब तक कितना नुकसान हो चुका है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) जी हां।

(ख) "बनाइये, परिचालित कीजिए, पट्टे पर दीजिए और हस्तांतरित कीजिए" प्रणाली के तहत दो पैकेट प्रणाली के अंतर्गत निविदाएं आमंत्रित की गई थीं और केवल दो फर्मों ने अपनी पेशकश प्रस्तुत की थीं। केवल मै० वेस्टर्न इंडिया इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड पुणे का बोली मूल्य ही खोला गया था क्योंकि अन्य निविदाकारों ने अपनी कुछ ऐसी शर्तों को वापस लेने से मना कर दिया था जिन्हें स्वीकार करना संभव नहीं था। मै० वेस्टर्न इंडिया इंडस्ट्रीज द्वारा उद्धृत की गई दरें इस प्रकार थीं:—

	(करोड़ रु० में)
(i) केवल निर्माण की लागत	201.35
(ii) मासिक पट्टा प्रभार	
8 वर्ष की अवधि	3.72
10 वर्ष की अवधि	3.43
12 वर्ष की अवधि	3.26

(ग) अभी तक कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है।

(घ) रेलों को कोई घाटा नहीं हुआ है।

Non-Availability of wheel chairs in South Central Railway Stations

*55. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no wheel chairs are available at all major railway stations in South Central Railways;

(b) if so, the names of railway stations in South Central Railways where wheel chairs are available;

(c) what are the reasons for railways ignoring handicapped people;

(d) whether visible notices will be put up at all stations where wheel chairs and assistance for handicapped people are available;

(e) whether it is a fact that written complaints have been made to the railway authorities at stations like Secunderabad railway station; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Wheel-Chairs have been provided at following stations of South Central Railway as per list attached as Statement. (*See* below)